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October 2, 2013

Mr. Mark Cowin, Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant – Draft Funding Recommendations

Dear Mr. Cowin:

As a Gateway Region stakeholder, member of the Gateway Water Management Authority "GWMA" which serves as the Regional Water Management Group, and a project proponent, the City of Norwalk strongly opposes the California Department of Water Resources "DWR" draft Funding Recommendations for Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Grants. We believe that the Gateway Region, representing the Southeastern portion of Los Angeles County cannot be ignored.

It is discouraging to see that regions with significant funding matches are recommended for State funds while those working at grass-root levels, in densely populated and built-out areas with disadvantaged communities receive nothing. In addition, we wish to respectfully remind DWR that the boundaries of the Gateway Region are not part of the Greater Los Angeles Region and that we participated in the Gateway planning and implementation grant process. Thus, the funds being recommended for the Greater Los Angeles Region are not representative of the needs of our region/watershed.

The high-level of information and participation in the development of the Gateway watershed plan and the implementation grant application process symbolizes what regional planning can achieve. It cannot and should not be disregarded. The City of Norwalk strongly opposes DWR's recommendations and strongly urges that funding be given fairly and equitably to all 4 regions in the Los Angeles/Ventura funding area.

Sincerely,

  
Luigi Vernola  
Mayor

cc: Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair, Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Assemblymember Ian Calderon, 57th District  
Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, 58th District  
Senator Ron Calderon, 30th District  
Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District  
Gateway Water Management Authority